

Southwest Quality Improvement Committee

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Approved By Committee: 06 February 2023

07 November 2022

12:00 pm - 1:00 p.m.

Mission Statement:

The Southwest Region Quality Improvement Committee (QIC), working in partnership with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), advocates for the client's well-being by identifying areas of Improvement and promoting changes within the child welfare system.

Attending: Kyle Garrett, Jeffrey Owens, Katelynn (DCFS Intern), Tina Lloyd, LaVelle Prince, Jana Timmons, Deanna Bigelow, Kristin Taylor (for Mike Sherratt), Sheryl Poole, Amy Bates, Diane Tyler, & Connie Furnival

Excused: Suzun Abbott & Kristi Pike

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: LaVelle Prince made a motion to approve the previous QIC Meeting Minutes as is. Deanna Bigelow seconded the motion. All were in favor. The August 1, 2022 QIC Meeting Minutes are approved.

***Purpose of CFSR+ & Online Training:** Deanna and Kyle went over CFSR+, which is a Federal case review. DCFS was previously reviewed through the Qualitative Case Review (QCR) instrument. This is how DCFS is able to audit casework. It happens once per year, per region. The CFSR reviewer training is now online. The next review for the Southwest Region is in April 2023. Children, parents, partners and family are interviewed to help DCFS see where there may be gaps or issues to address (safety, permanency, etc.). Any problems would be addressed through a Practice Improvement Plan. The review is broken down by areas needing improvement or strengths. That guides DCFS in future practice shifts. The review is more system based than worker based like the QCR was. It is a two-day time commitment to review the cases, but it is a great learning experience. The DCFS Northern Region has a review in February/March 2023 and the Eastern Region would be after that. Statewide DCFS is focused on safety and assessing safety. DCFS needs to improve in that area. Is DCFS providing adequate safety services? How well does DCFS assess safety on an ongoing basis, and provide for the needs to mitigate concerns? Did DCFS prevent the removal of the child?

***First Impressions Update:** This program has been implemented in the Richfield/Manti areas, and is working very well. DCFS is about ready to move forward with First Impressions in Cedar City. Training has been scheduled into January for DCFS administration and workers. A coordinator will be hired to help with Beaver & Iron Counties. Washington County will be included once the Cedar City process has been completed. A FAM (Family Action Meeting) meeting is put together when a CPS case deems it appropriate. The coordinator helps manage the safety concerns and what is done. What specifically is causing the concerns? How can DCFS mitigate those specific concerns and not just say, "Safety is a concern"? This can help children who are taken into DCFS custody to get home as soon as it is appropriate. The agency (DCFS) backs off, as much as possible, while the family decides how to solve their own problems. The FAM is not the same thing as a CFTM (Child and Family Team Meeting). The FAM is held upfront to keep children out of DCFS custody, if possible. This helps show a court that the family is making the effort to help themselves. *LaVelle asked if Nelson could come back in May and give an in-depth update on First Impressions. Tina will contact Nelson to set that up. Typically, the FAM process happens rather quickly and then ongoing service may be added. The people at the table can help support the family early on in the case.

***Coins for Kids:** Diane reported that KONY's Coins for Kids is open until next week. The family needs a referral letter from their counselor at their child's school. The "verification time" means they will bring ID and birth certificate to show they are how they say they are. A family can only be helped three times in a ten-year period. Any in that situation would be referred to Toys for Tots for assistance. There would be approximately 4-5 toys per child given. Coins for Kids is in better shape this year than before. The Salvation Army is joining forces to help as well. They will be joining forces with other resources (Elks, Angel Tree, etc.). The new directors at the Salvation Army want to give in a way we have never seen before! They want to help with rent, food, clothing, connection to resources, etc. They have said they will help families after the Toys for Tots cutoff. Every child in Washington County will be served from one agency or another. Diane is very excited to have more options for the children in Washington County! A foster child or in-home case can receive help with holiday assistance. The deadline for holiday assistance is early, but we will make sure children do not go without. There are always last minute donations for families. Diane will email the information she has on the Salvation Army to the QIC (Completed 11.07.2022). Is Red Rock Canyon School doing their holiday dinner again this year? This year may be tough for many families. Diane is a school liaison for Coins for Kids and is a CASA. Tans Treats (??) serves many homeless families in Washington County as well. There are 594 homeless students reported in Washington County. Of that, 44 kids live in a car, park, campground, or public place in Washington County. Six children are in places with no water, shelter, toilet, etc., and 41 students are considered unaccompanied, as they live with friends or acquaintances. That is very sad. Youth Futures has hygiene kits and clothing for anyone who needs it. Diane has hygiene kits and individual snacks as well. They also have limited clothing resources, if needed. The group discussed resources for children for winter clothing.

***UFC:** November is National Adoption Month! UFC is sponsoring a fun celebration at Staheli Farm (3400 Washington Fields Road) tonight from 4 pm to 6 pm. Families will have fun activities to do and there will get pizza at 5 pm. There is no entrance fee and anyone who has been touched by adoption is welcome to attend. There will be booths present with resource information for adoptive families. An adoptive parent will be talking to attendees about their experiences adopting. Deanna will send an email to the St. George staff.

Thanks to all who participated. Jana Timmons called the meeting adjourned.

DISMISS: 1:00 p.m.

2023 Meeting Schedule:

Monday, February 6, 2023

Monday, May 1, 2023

Monday, August 7, 2023

Monday, November 6, 2023

Public Comments (brief mention of items that may be included on future agenda's)

QIC Website: QIC website at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. --Carol Miller

Report Child Abuse

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